

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

TAYLOR, Gene (Democrat)
Representative, 4th District, Mississippi
Elected 17Oct89 to 101st Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: New Orleans, Louisiana - 17 September 1953
Home: Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
Marital Status: Married (Margaret) - 3 children
Religion: Roman Catholic
Education: Tulane Univ, BA, 1976; graduate work, Univ of Southern Mississippi, 1978-80
Military: Coast Guard Reserve, 1971-84
Profession: Sales representative

Political: MS Senate, 1984-89. Succeeded Rep Larkin Smith (R) who died in an Aug89 plane crash. Sworn-in 24Oct89. Reelected in 2000 with 79% of the vote and in 2002 with 75%.

Rep Taylor is a conservative Democrat and founding member of the so-called "Blue Dog" Coalition. He is equally comfortable in criticizing the leadership of both parties in the House and is considered an independent voice. While often mentioned as a possible party switcher, has denied any such intention to move to the GOP. In the 105th Congress criticized military retiree health care. Wanted to target future military pay raises toward younger military members, who he believes have the greatest need. Sponsored provisions in the FY99 DoD Auth to send troubled youths through boot camps run by the National Guard. Supported a return to gender-segregated basic military training. Supports the Navy's DD-21 destroyer program and maintaining a strong shipbuilding industrial base important to his district.

In the 106th Congress opposed FY00 DoD Auth language restricting use of Kosovo operation funds for combat or peacekeeping purposes. (Legi-Slate, 19May99) Joined two Republican members in additional view on sections pertaining to abortion in military hospitals and the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. (HRpt 106-162, 24May99) During debate on Defense funding, noted erosion of benefits for military retirees, discussed Medicare subvention and cited the Base Hospital at Keesler AFB as an example. (CR, 20Jul99)

In the 107th Congress announced opposition to another round of base closures in 2005, supported the conversion of two cruise ships in Pascagoula shipyards to temporary barracks ships for use in contingency operations; criticized OMB for borrowing military and federal employee retirement funds as tools in creating federal budget surpluses; sought to remove prohibition on Medicare reimbursements to military medical treatment facilities so that Medicare-eligible military retirees could seek treatment at such facilities; supported the creation of National Guard weapons of mass destruction (WMD) civil support teams in each state; supported concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation; and urged the mobilization of greater numbers of Guard & Reserve troops in preparation for possible military action in Iraq.

Additional: Congressional Coast Guard Coalition, House Co-Chair; National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus; Co-Chair
AF Bases: Keesler AFB

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Projection Forces (Ranking); Readiness
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
US COAST GUARD ACADEMY -- BD OF VISITORS (2001-2002)